



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY ALASKA
724 POSTAL SERVICE LOOP #5000
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

APVR-RAG-RS

27 Oct 05

MEMORANDUM FOR Members, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council (6 Oct 05) **Change 1**

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program, the Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council met 6 Oct 05, 7:00 p.m., Arctic Oasis Club. Chairperson Ladd McBride presided.

2. Present:

Ladd McBride
Mary Alice Jackson
Terry Miller
Beth King
Dennis Golbach
LTC Olins, MEDDAC
Scott Hill, Commissary Manager
Rosie Womack, Asst. PX Manager
Sharon Harris, RSO

Joe Sheehan
Doris C. Mercer
Richard Miller
David King
Walt Gelinas

3. Chairperson Ladd McBride called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. Walt Gelinas, Scott Hill, and Rosie were first time attendees.

4. Minutes: Approved as written.

5. Committees:

a. Membership: Not present.

b. Legislative: Richard Miller stated he has been sending emails on a weekly basis to keep everyone informed of legislature issues. If you are not getting them, pls let him know and he will resend/verify your email address.

c. Medical: LTC Olins represented MEDDAC in KLee Hardcastle's absence. He stated the new hospital facility is progressing along very well. Around Oct/Nov 06, the facility will be open to patients. MEDDAC will sign over the keys around Mar 06 but will still need to move in equipment from the old facility and conduct an inspection. Flu shot serum has arrived at FWA but they must conduct an inventory therefore the date to give shots has not been set. It was stated that retirees can go to the VA clinic at Bassett to get the shots. Also, the Health Center in Fairbanks will give the shots free. There is still a shortage of doctors at Bassett (particularly the Family Practice Clinic). Some of the contractors are

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choosing to leave in Nov 05. A ceremony was conducted by the Commanding General on 4 Oct 05 to award two soldiers that was wounded in IRAQ with the Purple Heart medal. Joe Sheehan informed LTC Olins that the council is very willing to offer support to the wounded soldiers and their families. LTC Olins informed the council that MEDDAC will more than likely implement the Safe Act Program.

d. AAFES/Commissary Council: Ladd thanked Rosie for doing such a great job last year in keeping the area clear for the handicap patrons. Terry Ogino volunteered to go to IRAQ to set up a PX. She emailed Richard Miller some pictures. **The pictures were past around to those at the meeting and if anyone would like the pictures emailed to them, contact Richard and he will forward them.** There was a question as to why grass was planted in the area close to the PX entrance instead of the area being opened for parking. Rosie stated she think this was a result of force protection. Mr. Scott Hill informed the council the Commissary will close at 4:00 pm on 23-25 Oct in order to complete the shelf renovation. When they reopen, there will be update aisle maps. The commissary is accepting Special Orders – if you see something in Anchorage that you would like, inform them and they will get it. Renovations were made to the interior of the store. The commissary is trying to realign its hours to that of the patron needs. A survey will be conducted in the store for everyone to vote on the hours that best suit them. The majority will win, therefore, get your vote in. The following suggestions were presented to Mr. Hill: post prices on the meats in the deli, carry healthy choice roast beef and Smokey Swiss cheese, and place a price on the vegetables such as 3/1.00, etc. (something that can be compared to the grocery stores off post).

e. Interior Veterans Coalition: Chairperson Ladd McBride had received an email from the director of the Division of Veteran Affairs reference a Patient Care Group (PCG) scam. This group is telling veterans that PCG is dispensing medications for the VA and the company needs their credit card number to continue to receive medications. This is not true and do not provide your information. Below are links to news clips about this scam:

http://www.wisinfo.com/sheboyganpres/news/archive/local_22876962.shtml
and <http://community.emeraldcoase.com/article.showarticle.db.php?a=2477>.

f. Well Being: Richard Miller stated meetings are being conducted either monthly or quarterly. If anyone has any issues, please get them to him and he will present to the council. The changes with the handicap areas at the commissary/PX were a result of the Well Being Council.

6. Program: Ladd McBride stated HR 602 (Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act) is up to 223 co-sponsors as of 21 Sep 05. The Senate Companion bill (S 407) had 9 co-sponsors as of 14 Jul 05.

7. Old Business:

a. FWA ID card section now has the software to issue permanent ID cards to dependents 75 & older.

b. The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program coordinator (Doug Schobel) stated the company would be glad to give a presentation on the TRDP but would like to arrange it when they could have maximum attendance (i.e. Retiree Appreciation Day, etc).

8. New Business:

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a. Joe Sheehan proposed the council prepare a letter to MOAA (Military Officers Association of America), Senator Warner, & CODEL that states the Greater Fairbanks Retiree council do not support the delay of SBP/DIC offset issue. Richard Miller will prepare the letter.

b. It was mentioned that in the past, meeting reminder mail outs were sent to retirees reminding them of each meeting and paid for out of the CG fund. Sharon stated she would look into this with the CG's office to see if funds are available. This may be difficult since Retirements Services falls under IMA (Installation Management Agency) which is garrison and the CG is on the mission side. It was suggested that maybe a commercial company would sponsor sending out the invitations. These efforts are to increase membership and attendance at meetings.

c. The Membership roster is in need of updating. Richard Miller will scrub this roster against his email listing.

d. Sharon attended a Retirement Services Officer Workshop in August and would like to provide briefings in the upcoming months on some of the topics that were discussed (i.e. AKO accounts, myPay accounts, retiree recalls, and Freedom Team Salute

9. Announcements: The Retiree website can be accessed at the following URL:
www.usarak.army.mil/akretiree/.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

11. Next Meeting: Nov 3 at 7:00 pm at the Arctic Oasis Club.

//ORIGINAL SIGNED//
LADD McBRIDE
Chairperson

I have reviewed these minutes.

//ORIGINAL SIGNED//
SHARON HARRIS
RSO